

months of imports from those countries in question: Japan, Russia, and Brazil. We also have to recognize that overall we have seen this reduction in steel imports, and that decline is one which seems to be continuing, and the numbers are phenomenal. If we go from November of 1998 to January of 1999, they have dropped by 93 percent from Russia, 49 percent from Japan, 30 percent from Brazil, and 8 percent from Korea.

Mr. Speaker, we also have to recognize that 1998 was a banner year for the U.S. steel industry. In fact, 102 million tons of U.S. steel were shipped. Guess what the demand was? It was for 141 million tons. There is a demand out there that is greater than what is actually being produced, and yet, in 1998, this country produced the second highest amount of steel that we have ever produced in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that this country today is economically strong because of our openness and our dynamism. We should not let fear create the kinds of problems that it has throughout the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, we look at the fact that there are many skilled workers in Western Europe, and yet their economies are faced with very, very great difficulties. Why? Because of the fear, because of the protectionism that they have imposed, and they do not have the kind of openness and dynamism that we have as a Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at all of those downstream workers, 40 times as many as there are in the actual steel manufacturing industry in this country. The auto manufacturers, they also are in large part, as the Wall Street Journal pointed out in an editorial yesterday, responsible for this. The 54-day strike that took place with General Motors obviously decreased that opportunity for production during last fall's strike. So it seems to me that we need to recognize that consumers would be devastated by going down this slippery slope.

We have other industries, the oil and gas industry. As I said, in our State of California, our economy, because of the cuts in defense and aerospace over the past several years, hinges on our involvement in the international economy. Our State is the gateway to the Pacific Rim and Latin America. If we were to pass, move ahead with this legislation, it could be potentially devastating to the largest State in the Union, and I believe to this entire country.

So let us stand with our Nation's openness, diversity and dynamism, which has, in fact, given us the strongest economic growth that we have seen in many, many years.

With that, I urge support of the rule.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman at the microphone, for his fairness in the presentation of this rule. He did extend the time, and he did allow the bill to come to the floor, even though he personally is opposed to it.

I also thank the gentleman for the timing, because as he knows, in 15 minutes the President of the United States is going to join all Irishmen, Congressmen of Irish descent in the Rayburn Room for a March 17th dinner. So I thank the gentleman for that too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84 (36 U.S.C. 1402(a)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. GILMAN of New York;

Mr. LATOURETTE of Ohio; and

Mr. CANNON of Utah.

There was no objection.

REDUCING VOLUME OF STEEL IMPORTS AND ESTABLISHING STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 114, I call up the bill (H.R. 975) to provide for a reduction in the volume of steel imports, and to establish a steel import notification and monitoring program, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 975 is as follows:

H.R. 975

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN VOLUME OF STEEL IMPORTS.

(a) REDUCTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall take the necessary steps, by imposing quotas, tariff surcharges, negotiated enforceable voluntary export restraint agreements, or otherwise, to ensure that the volume of steel products imported into the United States during any month does not exceed the average volume of steel products that was imported monthly into the United States during the 36-month period preceding July 1997.

(b) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—Within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, through the United States Customs Service, and the Secretary of Commerce shall implement a program for administering and enforcing the restraints on imports under subsection (a). The Customs Service is authorized to refuse entry into the customs territory of the United States of any steel products that exceed the allowable levels of imports of such products.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) CATEGORIES.—This section shall apply to the following categories of steel products: semifinished, plates, sheets and strips, wire rods, wire and wire products, rail type products, bars, structural shapes and units, pipes and tubes, iron ore, and coke products.

(2) VOLUME.—Volume of steel products for purposes of this section shall be determined on the basis of tonnage of such products.

(d) EXPIRATION.—This section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish and implement a steel import notification and monitoring program. The program shall include a requirement that any person importing a product classified under chapter 72 or 73 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States obtain an import notification certificate before such products are entered into the United States.

(b) STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION CERTIFICATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to obtain a steel import notification certificate, an importer shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce an application containing—

(A) the importer's name and address;

(B) the name and address of the supplier of the goods to be imported;

(C) the name and address of the producer of the goods to be imported;

(D) the country of origin of the goods;

(E) the country from which the goods are to be imported;

(F) the United States Customs port of entry where the goods will be entered;

(G) the expected date of entry of the goods into the United States;

(H) a description of the goods, including the classification of such goods under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

(I) the quantity (in kilograms and net tons) of the goods to be imported;

(J) the cost insurance freight (CIF) and free alongside ship (FAS) values of the goods to be entered;

(K) whether the goods are being entered for consumption or for entry into a bonded warehouse or foreign trade zone;